

Smith policy language was dropped, (2) FY 1996 appropriations for population assistance was reduced by 35%, and (3) a formula was adopted to delay USAID's ability to obligate some of the appropriate money, in order to allow Congress further opportunities to curb the Administration's pro-abortion crusade.

During 1996, the House offered a compromise in the form of a far weaker pro-life provision, the "Callahan 50/50 Amendment." Under this provision, organizations that violated the "Mexico City" conditions would have remained eligible for funding, but at only 50% of the FY 1995 level. (This restriction would have applied only to new, FY 1997 funds—not to the \$303 million carried over from FY 1996.) In a September conference committee, appropriators coupled the Callahan provision to additional language that would have allowed obligation of an additional \$293 million in population-control funding during FY 1997—for a total of as much as \$713 million. But White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta told the appropriators that President Clinton would veto the entire omnibus funding bill rather than accept this proffered compromise.

Because of this veto threat, the final September funding bill [now PL 104-208] contained no new policy language to constrain the Administration's pro-abortion activities—but again set a population-control funding level about one-third lower than the 1995 figure, and placed "metering" limitations on how soon the Administration can obligate those funds.

This episode perfectly illustrated the White House's ideological commitment to keeping abortion as a fundamental component of the program, at all costs—reflecting its close alliance with organizations such as the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA), an organization that has openly proclaimed its operating "principal" that "reproductive freedom is indivisible" (i.e., that abortion must not be treated differently from other birth control options). Immediately following the episode described above, Gloria Feldt, president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, said her side had won "a moral victory in defeating abortion restrictions," but added, "The cost has been enormous."

The September law also guaranteed the White House a chance to substantially increase the amount of money that it can obligate during FY 1997. Under the law, President Clinton must file a "finding" with Congress no later than February 1, stating his opinion regarding the effects of funding cuts on "the proper functioning of the population planning program." The law further requires that, before the end of February, both the House and the Senate must vote on a joint resolution which, if approved, would release an additional \$123 million in population-control funds during the current fiscal year—without any restrictions on the use of these funds for the Administration's pro-abortion activities.●

MEXICO AND DRUG CERTIFICATION

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, this week, President Clinton must make an important decision regarding our Nation's fight against illegal drug trafficking. He must decide by March 1 whether to certify that Mexico and Colombia have, in the past year, taken all appropriate and necessary actions in the fight against international narcotics trafficking.

Under the international antidrug law, in order for a country which is either a major source of narcotics or a major drug transit country to continue

to receive U.S. aid, the President must certify as adequate the performance of that country in cooperating with the United States or taking its own actions in the drug fight.

The law gives the President three choices. First, he can certify that the country is either fully cooperating with the United States or has taken adequate steps on its own to combat the narcotics trade. Second, he can decertify the country, concluding that the country has failed to meet the requirements of cooperation or action. Third, he can provide a vital national interest waiver—essentially a finding that the country has not met the standards of the law, but that our own national interest is best protected by continuing to provide assistance to the country.

With respect to Colombia, I believe the only appropriate course for the President to follow is to decertify Colombia, just as he did last year. There is too much credible evidence that Colombian President Samper has taken millions in campaign contributions from the Cali Cartel and that he has failed to take the antidrug and anticorruption actions that he pledged to us in 1994.

The question of Mexico is more complicated. Mexico is the leading transit country for cocaine coming into the United States: 50 to 70 percent of all cocaine shipped into the United States comes through Mexico. It is also a significant source of heroin, methamphetamines, and marijuana.

President Zedillo seems to be strongly committed to rid the Mexican law enforcement system of corruption and to fight the Mexican drug cartels. However, the reports and events of the past few weeks have made it clear that corruption in police ranks—even up to the very top ranks—is still rampant in Mexico.

Just last week, it was revealed that the man hired only 3 months ago to be Mexico's drug czar—the head of their antinarcotics agency—was fired abruptly after being accused of taking bribes from one of Mexico's most powerful drug lords. It would be as if our own drug czar, Gen. Barry McCaffrey, were found to be in league with drug gangs in our country.

Why didn't the Mexican Government tell us weeks ago that their man was under investigation? Why did they let our own drug agency brief him and give him important intelligence about our antidrug efforts? That is not cooperation by any standard.

Mexico has also failed in the past year to take its own steps to meet the standards of the certification law. It has not acted boldly to root out corruption in its law enforcement establishment; it has acted to extradite to the United States only a few Mexican nationals suspected of involvement in United States drug activities; it has failed to implement new anticrime laws enacted last year.

Given these facts, I do not believe Mexico should be certified in compliance with the drug law. However, I be-

lieve the President would be justified in granting a vital national interest waiver of the requirements of the law. That would send a message to Mexico that its actions in the past year were inadequate; but it would allow the United States to continue joint efforts with President Zedillo and others in his administration who are committed to the drug fight.●

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, for more than 70 years, February has been designated as the month in which we honor the achievements and contributions of African-Americans to our history, our culture and our future. One remarkable African-American leader, W.E.B. DuBois, made an observation in 1903 that bears great significance for this celebration. "Herein lies the tragedy of the age," he said, "that men know so little of men." Since 1926, Black History Month has challenged us to mitigate that tragedy, encouraging us to study the lives of both our most noted heroes and those whose stories have remained untold.

As it does each year, the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History has selected a theme for this month's celebration. Its theme for 1997, "African-Americans and Civil Rights: A Reappraisal," focuses on the pioneers, leaders, and venues in the civil rights struggle that are often unrecognized. In light of this, I want to pay tribute to an extraordinary group of African-American artists from my State of Maryland who, despite their undeniably significant contributions to our culture, nevertheless remain relatively unknown. Yet, given their landmark accomplishments, these individuals would be important role models for aspiring artists of all backgrounds. By pushing the limits of their artistic mediums, the international respect earned by these artists advanced the struggle for the equal recognition of all people, both in our society and under its laws. I salute the association for selecting a theme that focuses on more of our Nation's unsung heroes.

At the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon, there sits a memorial chair dedicated to Ira Aldridge, one of the greatest Shakespearean tragedians of his day. Born in Baltimore in 1805, Aldridge's performances were so popular with heads of state that he was the first African American to be knighted. He drew praise from New York to Prussia, with a diverse repertoire of roles that included Othello, Macbeth, Shylock, Lear and Richard III. Known as "The Celebrated African Tragedian," Aldridge was called "without doubt the greatest actor that has ever been seen in Europe," by a Viennese critic, and "the most beautiful male artist that one can imagine," by a Prussian. Pioneers like Aldridge made possible careers like those